



Office of the



State Superintendent of Education

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District of Columbia
11th Annual Public Private Partnership
Conference

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“Fundraising Resources”
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Division of Early Childhood Education

The OSSE Mission

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The Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE) sets high expectations, provides resources and support, and exercises accountability to ensure that all District residents receive an excellent education.

The ECE Mission

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The Division of Early Childhood Education (ECE) provides leadership and coordination to ensure all District of Columbia children from birth to kindergarten entrance have access to high quality early childhood development programs and child care services (including before and after school care) to children ages 6 weeks through 12 years, including services through age 18 for children with disabilities.

ECE works to develop an effective early childhood education system by implementing high standards for programs and professionals, creating supports to meet standards, adhering to rigorous accountability measures, engaging community stakeholders and securing strong financial supports.

The RFA Process – The Steps

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Major Steps	Notes
Notice of Availability of Funding (NOFA) Release 2 - weeks	Posted on the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), DC City Administrator's (OCA) website, The Funding Alert and The DC Register.
Request for Applications (RFA) Release 30 - days	Posted on the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), DC City Administrator's (OCA) website, The Funding Alert and The DC Register.
Pre-Application Conference	
Written Q&A Deadline	Send questions to walter.lundy@dc.gov
Division of Early Childhood Education	

The RFA Process – The Steps

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Major Steps	Notes
Answers To Questions Posted	Office of City Administrator's website (OCA), District Grants Clearinghouse http://capstat.oca.dc.gov/ and Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE), http://ossedc.gov/
Deadline for Applications	Must be received by 3:30 p.m. EST Hard copies only
Award Announcement	ECE will contact the award recipient and other applicants
Grant Start & End Dates	Performance period may be extended contingent upon available funding.



Eligibility Criteria

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Applications are requested from nonprofit organizations licensed to do business in the District of Columbia. Applicants must have knowledge of best practices and current research related to early childhood programs and families in the District, exposure to the demographic characteristics in the District, and familiarity with community resources necessary to further the objectives of the OSSE/ECE RFA.



Eligibility Criteria

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Two or more entities partnering together to design and implement services under the OSSE/ECE RFA are required to complete and submit the Collaboration Commitment Form (Attachment K) with their application.

Funding Sources

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- Improving Head Start for School Readiness Act of 2007 (ARRA)
- American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA)
- Child Care Development Fund (CCDF)
- District of Columbia Pre-k appropriations
- District of Columbia Local appropriations

RFA does not commit the OSSE to make an award.

OSSE/ECE Upcoming RFAs

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- Pre-kindergarten Program Assistance
- Pre-kindergarten Classroom Expansion
- Out-of-School Time for Children from Limited English Proficient Asian, Latino and Other Newcomer Communities
- Licensing Technical Assistance and Professional Development for Persons with Limited English Proficiency or For Whom English Is Not the First Language
- Training for Child Maltreatment Issues for Current Early Care and Education Staff
- Early Childhood Literacy
- Training, Technical Assistance and Comprehensive Clinical Services Project for the Pre-kindergarten Incentive Program

OSSE/ECE Upcoming RFAs

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Pre-kindergarten Program Assistance (\$550,000)

ECE established the Pre-k Program Assistance Grants (PAG) program in 2010 pursuant to the Pre-k Enhancement and Expansion Amendment Act of 2008. Program Assistance Grants are used to improve the overall quality of Pre-k programs in DC Public Schools, DC Public Charter Schools and community-based sites within the District of Columbia. Through targeted financial support, Program Assistant Grants assist pre-k providers in reaching and maintaining the high-quality standards. Program Assistance Grants support the following activities:

- Accreditation facilitation and training;
- Instructional support and materials;
- Age-appropriate curriculum and related training;
- Facilities improvement; and
- Support for development of family engagement programs.

OSSE/ECE Upcoming RFAs

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Pre-kindergarten Classroom Expansion (\$500,000)

The OSSE/ECE seeks to award grants to eligible organization to establish pre-k classrooms that provide high-quality early educational services to children. It seeks applications from community-based organizations (CBOs) which, as defined by the Act include Head Start and early childhood education programs operated by a nonprofit or faith-based organizations, or for-profit organizations that participate in federally-funded and/or District-funded early childhood programs, including the Child Care Subsidy Program funded by the federal Child Care and Development Fund and District of Columbia appropriated funds.

OSSE/ECE Upcoming RFAs

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Out-of-School Time for Children from Limited English Proficient Asian, Latino and Other Newcomer Communities (\$400,000)

- The OSSE/ECE is committed to improving the quality and expanding the supply of early education providers in the District of Columbia. OSSE/ECE is also committed to enhancing access to early education services for families from Limited English Proficient Asian, African, Latino, and other Newcomer Communities, particularly during out-of-school time. Through community-based programs, OSSE/ECE seeks to enrich the experience of children from Limited English Proficient Asian, African, Latino and other Newcomer Communities, and deter them from engaging in negative activities during out-of-school time.

OSSE/ECE Upcoming RFAs

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Licensing Technical Assistance and Professional Development for Persons with Limited English Proficiency or For Whom English Is Not the First Language (\$200,000)

OSSE/ECE seeks assistance in providing technical assistance in becoming a licensed child development facility provider, professional development, and preparation in the core Child Development Associate (CDA) competencies to work in the field of early care and education. These services are to be provided to prospective child care providers with limited proficiency in English or for whom English is not the primary language. Limited proficiency is defined as having a limited ability to read, write, speak, or understand English

OSSE/ECE Upcoming RFAs

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Training for Child Maltreatment Issues for Current Early Care and Education Staff (\$100,000)

The Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect Act of 1977 (DC Official Code § 4-1321.05) mandates that child care providers, among others, must report actual or suspected cases of child maltreatment.

OSSE/ECE seeks assistance in training up to two hundred (200) early care and education providers on the signs of child maltreatment, policies and procedures for responding to signs of child maltreatment, and reporting incidents or suspected incidents of child maltreatment. The target populations for this training are early child care and education providers in the District of Columbia.

OSSE/ECE Upcoming RFAs

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Early Childhood Literacy (\$300,000)

- Early childhood, birth through age eight (8), is a significant stage that impacts life-long learning. The development of literacy skills during early childhood is critical. Yet, current research reveals that young children from low-income families have unequal access to high-quality early language and literacy experiences.
- In an effort to address these challenges, the OSSE/ECE seeks an organization to develop, support and manage twelve (12) Family Book Clubs in Wards 1, 5, 7, and 8 collectively. These Family Book Clubs will work to strengthen families' understanding of early literacy development and the important connection to school readiness and long term academic achievement. The Family Book Club will help early childhood programs and the families they serve develop, implement and sustain early literacy activities. The Grantee will support the development of three (3) Family Book Clubs within each targeted ward. Each Family Book Club will be facilitated by a core group of families and staff members who will serve as Literacy Coaches.

OSSE/ECE Upcoming RFAs

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Training, Technical Assistance and Comprehensive Clinical Services Project for the Pre-kindergarten Incentive Program

The funded projects require training and technical assistance related to the implementation of prescribed curricula, classroom instruction, evaluation design and implementation, parent involvement, marketing and community outreach, and use of computers and other equipment; and, they require access to a set of comprehensive health-related services (including but not limited to social workers, psychologists, speech and language practitioners and play therapists) that will ensure that no child enrolled in the Pre-Kindergarten Incentive Program leaves the program with an undiagnosed health challenge that may affect his or her ability to learn.

OSSE/ECE Upcoming RFAs

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Training, Technical Assistance and Comprehensive Clinical Services Project for the Pre-kindergarten Incentive Program

The OSSE/ECE seeks to fund two sub-grants. Under this initiative, a maximum of \$520,000 is available for this purpose. Applicants may apply for up to \$280,000 under the Training & Technical Assistance category and up to \$240,000 under the Comprehensive Services category.

Pre-Application Conference Objectives

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- ✓ Understand the Mission of the RFA
- ✓ Understand the Need for the RFA
- ✓ Discuss Key Components of the RFA
- ✓ Provide an Overview of the RFA Process
- ✓ Important Dates
- ✓ Answer Questions



Tips for Completing the Application

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DO –

- Make sure your application is complete (i.e. answer the questions, provide requested information)
- Reflect planning, research and vision throughout your proposal
- Attend the Pre-Application Conference
- Aim to make your application as competitive as possible, remember the grant funding is a competitive situation.
- Answer these questions: Who are you? How do you qualify? What do you want? What problem will you address and how? Who will benefit and how? What specific objectives will you accomplish and how? How will you measure your results? How does your funding request comply with the OSSE/ECE purpose, goals and objectives?
- Stay within the parameters of the RFA
- Put your best foot forward
- Use active rather than passive verbs. Use proper grammar and correct spelling. Be clear and concise



Tips for Completing the Application

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DON'T –

- Apply for the grant unless you have the capacity to do the work, and meet the eligibility criteria
- Start working on the application the night before
- Don't forget the small details
- Don't beat around the bush—BREVITY
- Pad your budget with staff
- No difference between Direct and Indirect Costs

Application Review

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In order to score the applications, the Reviewer utilizes the following:

- The RFA
- Technical Review and Comment Form
- Provider's Application



What am I looking for?

The criterion set forth in the Technical Review Form, gives solid examples of what we look for in the RFA.

Q & A

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